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OLD NEW YORK  
D O W N T O W N



## COMPILER'S PREFACE.

MERCHANT, attorney, broker, clerk, each of us who pass back and forth south of the City Hall to-day in our business, are walking over historic ground. The very streets (with but few changes) are the same as when Petrus Stuyvesant set in motion the first good stable government of the little town; as when the Liberty Boys took the first action for American Independence long before the Revolution; as when British troops held New York and when Washington drove in his coach of state up Broadway, spending his evening at the little theatre on John Street; when, again, Alexander Hamilton lived on Wall Street, and nearly every corner has its story.

Generally speaking, the scenes of New York's past are known, but not all the sites have been authenticated. In many cases it can be said that such and such an old building stood about here or near to that, yet the exact spot, the precise few feet it occupied may not be settled upon.

But enough has been discovered to make a tracing of the streets of New York, the historic sites familiarly passed each day, quite possible. The past few years have brought out much new knowledge, many additional facts. Historic New York is fairly well identified. The old Dutch town of New Amsterdam came up to what is now the south side of Wall Street, a wall of palisades stretching across the island just above. In the days of Governor Dongan, whose name is recalled in the Dongan Charter and the Dongan Hills on Staten Island, this wall was taken down, and this clever Irishman, inaugurating the days of real estate speculation and investment on Manhattan Island (with much gain to his own pocket), the English town and

later the little American city spread up to where City Hall Park is now.

In the Dutch town, Pearl Street was the river's edge, the "strand," and fashion congregated here. A canal ran through Broad Street, where there was also the first "Swamp" and the first tanneries and bootmakers. Broadway was yet unbuilt. At Exchange Place and Broadway there was a high hill. The Dutch Fort stood to the south of what is now Bowling Green. There was no Battery Park, only a fringe of rocks along the present State Street. In early English times Pearl Street, Broadway and Wall Street became the haunts of society and retail trade. Broadway was never intended to run beyond St. Paul's Church. It was planned to have the town extend to the east, with the Bowery Road, Park Row, and the Bowery and Third Avenue (the Post road to Boston), its back bone. Long after the little city had spread to the east, the west side was wide-spreading farms. The Hudson River came up very close to the present Greenwich Street.

In the making of this short account of sites and streets there has been no attempt at original research. It represents an effort, simply, to separate facts from the mass of careless tradition. Too much misinformation about old New York has been put into print, only to be copied and recopied until believed. In the following pages only the statements of the foremost authorities have been considered, and there is evidence to support every point. Space does not permit an enumeration of authorities consulted but acknowledgments are due to nearly every writer on the history of New York.

CROMWELL CHILDE.



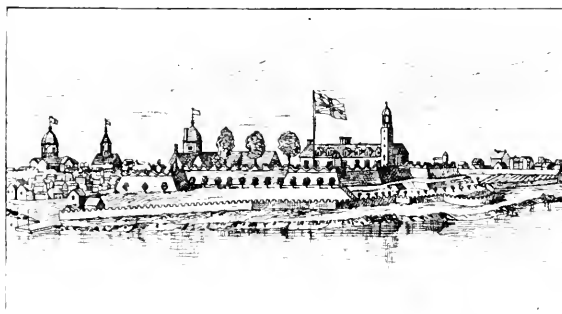
## PUBLISHER'S PREFACE.

HE who walks the streets of downtown New York may give occasional speculative thought to the past and wonder by whom the way he treads was trodden in gone-by days. But a man in downtown New York is apt to be a busy man and to have but little leisure to delve into the past, or time for the perusal of the many excellent histories which deal with the subject. This booklet has been prepared for such. The publishers trust that the subject and its treatment may prove of interest and be found instructive. While there is no pretense of preparing an exhaustive treatise, yet it is believed the ground has been fully covered and accurately.

Incidentally also, this publication is intended to serve as a specimen of the typographical ability of the establishment numbered forty on Beaver street, where has been located for many years

THE BROUN-GREEN COMPANY,  
PRINTERS AND STATIONERS.





## THE FORT, THE BEACH AND BOWLING GREEN.

(INCLUDING STATE STREET AND THE BATTERY.)

**H**ISTORICALLY, the large square bounded by Bowling Green, State Street, Stone Street and Whitehall Street, where the foundations for the new Custom House are being laid (August, 1901), yields in point of interest to no other site. It was here Fort Amsterdam stood, with a church and residence within its walls. (The Holland Society of New York has a tablet in commemoration of this old stronghold, which will be put into place again when the Custom House is completed.) Here, later, the famous red brick Government House, in which Washington never lived, but Governor Clinton did, was erected, to be followed in its turn, in the early days of the last century, by that row of handsome residences that were given the name of "Quality Row." After they had fallen from their high estate and become the offices of ocean liners they were known as "Steamship Row."

At one time, too, though not for long, in the first years of the Government, the Custom House was here, in the Government House itself, and, while its precise site has not been determined, on this block is said to have been the beginnings of all things in the

settlement of New York, the first hurried fortification thrown up for the protection of the traders.

New Amsterdam, as a town at the very first, has been summed up by an authority as a fort of cedar palisades and a block house; a few years later as a larger fort, of stone and earthwork, 300 feet long and 250 broad, and within the enclosure three windmills, a guard house and barracks, a stone church (of which Domine Bogardus, second husband of Anneke Jans, was pastor), and a house for the Director. Outside these fortifications were about 300 huts strung along the East River close to the fort.

Hendrick Hudson, when he came sailing up the Hudson in his *Halve Maen* in 1609, looked disdainfully at Manhattan Island and returned disappointedly to Holland, having failed to find a north-west passage to India. And the Dutch Government took his cue and thought the newly found land not worth considering. It was not until some commercial spirits in Holland became suddenly awake to the possibilities of the fur trade that the Island on the banks of this far distant river was considered seriously. These merchants, combined into the

West India Company (chartered in 1621), soon found the stockade built in 1614 too small an affair and started the fort and colony.



FORT AT THE BATTERY.

The Sally-port of Fort Amsterdam was to the north, upon "The Plaine" (now Bowling Green), and according to Thomas A. Janvier's plan it extended to the present Bridge

Street line, the hill it was on reaching across the present Whitehall Street half way to Broad. Pieter Minuit's bartering, by which he got the whole of Manhattan Island for twenty-four dollars (this

"deal" probably consummated on "The Plaine"), is well recalled. Peter Stuyvesant stood in an angle of the fort when the English fleet came up the bay on a day in 1664 saying: "I had rather be carried a corpse to my grave than to surrender the city." Nevertheless Fort Amsterdam had to fall—too weak to resist. Again and again Stuyvesant had implored the Dutch Government to strengthen it, knowing what its fate must be if assailed. It must have been a veritable opera bouffe of a fort, even for those colonial days.

There was no Battery Park then. All this land is made ground since the year 1783. The original high water mark of the Hudson, where it joined the East River, closely hugged the old fort, curving around from about the foot of the present Greenwich Street, practically along what is now State Street, to just beyond Pearl Street, where the East River began. But little of this land was filled in until well within the nineteenth century. In Dutch and English days there was simply a fringe of rocks where the rivers met.

Spencer Trask says that the fort cost \$1,635, and the church within the enclosure \$1,000. This was the first substantial church in New Amsterdam.

After the English came into power the need of additional fortifications got more attention. It was finally determined to build a battery under the walls of the fort, which was done in the year 1683. Some say this battery was not erected until ten years later, but the accuracy of the former date seems to be proved by this line of a report of 1688. "Out the Fort, under the flag-mount, near the waterside, five demi-culverins." At all events, it was this stand of firing pieces, on the Capkse Rocks, now covered by the Bowling Green end of Battery Place, that gave to this section of New York its name of The Battery.

The shore here went by the name of Capsey Hook (says Alice Morse Earle), and the old docu-

ments of the time tell how the line of the State Street of to-day was a beach, on which, in Dutch days, criminals were executed. Half a century to a century later The Battery really deserved its name. Ratzen's map (printed in 1767) shows a line of works extending along the Capkse Reef from the foot of Greenwich Street to Whitehall Slip. This battery was well along in construction in 1738, and an effective defence by the time of the Revolution. There are no figures telling of its armament, except that in 1776 at least 23 guns were mounted upon it.

With Queen Anne's accession to the English Throne the old Fort became known as Fort George. In 1790 it was demolished, to give place to the new Government House, planned to be the Executive Mansion of the country. In 1789 the Legislature passed an act, "The ground at the Fort and the Battery shall be reserved for the public use and for continuing the Broad Way through to the river."



FORT GEORGE FROM WATER FRONT.

The earth and the stones from the Fort and its small hill were used "to enlarge the area of the battery."

Soon after the coming in of the nineteenth century yet another fortification arose, the Southwest Battery, later to be known as Fort or Castle Clinton, still later as Castle Garden. When it was built, between the years 1807 and 1811, it stood a full 300 feet out from the shore, on the outlying reef, and was reached by a long draw-bridge. Twenty-eight 32-pounders made up its armament,

and it was a distinguished addition to the line of the Battery's works.

Then Battery Park or Battery Walk, half its present size, began to be a popular pleasuring



NEW YORK BAY FROM BATTERY, 1822.

ground. In 1840 there was no sea wall, but beach and rocks only. The National Government, in 1822, took Governor's Island as a military headquarters, ceding Castle Clinton to the City. In 1824 Lafayette landed at Castle Clinton, and fashion at once set its seal of approval upon the ex-fort as a resort. On festal occasions colored lamps shone on it and bird cages and baskets of flowers hung in the casements. No New York building has had more remarkable social history.

A public assembly room and famous ballroom at first, Castle Garden afterwards became a theatre and opera house, the greatest of its era. The New York Aquarium is now on its site, Battery Park having long since been filled in to the old Castle's outer walls. This last change has completely transformed the ancient fort. The building, from 1855 to very nearly the present day, was used as an emigrants' landing place, under the name of Castle Garden. But before 1855, not only was Lafayette welcomed here, and Presidents Tyler and Jackson and Henry Clay, but in 1850 the noted cantatrice, Jenny Lind, sung in the great auditorium under the

management of P. T. Barnum. There was a great demonstration in honor of S. F. B. Morse in 1835 in this building; Kossuth was there sixteen years later, and through these years the park outside was the promenade and great social gathering place; on occasions a parade ground, where "the Pulaski Cadets, the Light Guard, the red-coated City Guards, and the Tompkins Blues manœuvred." It is difficult in few words to do justice to what Castle Garden and the Battery were to New Yorkers from 1824 to 1855.

"The Government House" (at the foot of Broadway), wrote Governor Drayton, in 1793, "is two stories high. Projecting before it is a portico, covered by a pediment, \* \* \* and the pediment is supported by four white pillars of the Ionic order, which are the height of both stories."

By act of the Legislature, May 26, 1812, the site of this building, transferred to the State some years before, was sold by the State to the corporation of the City of New York, and in 1815 the City sold it in seven lots to private buyers for residences. Each lot was about 31 feet front and 130 feet deep. Built as a row in 1818, these residences were long the finest houses in New York, and they marked precisely the front of the old fort. Garibaldi was entertained in them, as was John Quincy Adams, Clay, Webster, Calhoun, and Louis Napoleon long before he came to his empire. Lot 7, on the corner of State Street, was sold in 1825 to the noted merchant, Stephen Whitney, who, that same year, erected here the handsomest of all the houses in the row. Mr. Whitney lived in this house until his death, and when (about 1860) he was buried from Trinity, his was the last Knickerbocker house below Broadway. By that time Fifth Avenue had started on its course and the notable families were all well up town, but the old gentleman thought, to the last, that fashion would return to the Battery.



Lot 5 was at one time Commodore Vanderbilt's house, and after that his office. Around on State Street, on the same block, the second house from Bowling Green (Lot 9 of the Government House Lots), Daniel Webster had his residence, buying in 1828. At 9 State Street lived John Morton, "the rebel banker," at 16 and 17 Robert Lenox. Very late downtown, keeping his house here when nearly every one else had moved away, was Robert Goelet, whose home was also on State Street. At 22 and 24 Greenwich Street, a block away, now in the immigrant quarter, were, in the century's early days, the residences of two famous merchants, Moses Taylor and Henry Suydam.

In State Street, too, Washington Irving lived, and in the house on the eastern corner of Greenwich Street and Battery Place, built in the garden of the once great residence 1 Broadway, lived and died the inventor of the steamship, Robert Fulton.

Logically, Bowling Green, the little park, is the heart of Old New York. After being "The Plaine" it was "The Parade," and in 1732, that the town might be improved, the city fathers announced that they would lease it, to be laid out with walks and as a bowling green. Three citizens therefore took it, under these conditions, for eleven years, at an annual rent of one peppercorn.

In 1771 an iron railing was set about it, and an equestrian statue of George III. erected there. \$5,000, it is said, was spent on this fence and its stone foundation. The fence and the stones are still in place, "the crowns which originally ornamented the tops of the pillars having been broken off" (Spencer Trask).

At the time of the evacuation of New York by the British (about 1783) there was on each iron post a King George cross. After the evacuation these crosses were broken off by the citizens of New York, and the fence still shows where the crosses

were. It has also been stated that the posts were surmounted by iron balls, which were broken off during the colonial wars and used for cannon balls.

"The British shall have melted majesty fired at them." So said a patriot merchant in 1776, and a mob (of respectable people) tore down the statue of the King, and had it melted into bullets. The horse's tail, saved from the wreck, is in the possession of the New York Historical Society.

But the first of the Green, as an ancient Dutch ordinance (1659) tells, was its use as a market. To east and to west was the T'Marckvelt, "The Market Field."



DUTCH HOUSES.

## UP BROADWAY.

MANY names seem to have been Broadway's birthright. Before it was even an established street it was a locality. When, in 1659, the market was started on "The Plaine," the present first block of Broadway to the west of the little park was a part of the market field, T<sup>h</sup> Marckvelt. In its first days as a street it was called De Heere Straat. While the Dutch ruled it ran only to what is now Wall Street, where the wall stretched across Manhattan Island. Here was the "Land Gate," the way out to the fields beyond. Outside of the wall what road there was went by the name of De Heere Weg. These two terms meant, "the principal street," "the principal road."

Later, when the English were in command, it became the Broad Way, Broadway Street and Broadway. By the time the Revolution had come in it reached out very nearly to Duane Street. Up to the close of the eighteenth century that part beyond City Hall Park was spoken of as St. George or Great George Street, and later as the Middle Road.

The plan of the English moulders of the little city was to have Broadway end at St. Paul's. Business and residences were to turn there and follow up the Bowery Road. The west side of New York was taken little into account in the early days of the town. But the Dutch Heere Straat and Heere Weg kept on their course and now have become the longest street in the world, being a continuous thoroughfare from the Battery to Albany, and known as Broadway from one end to the other.

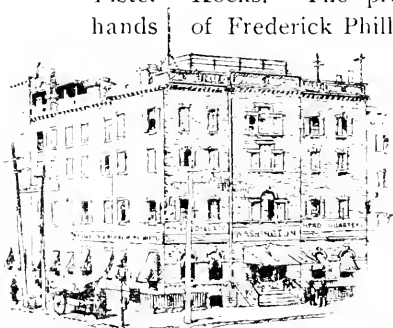


1 AND 3 BROADWAY  
IN 1828.

At No. 1 Broadway's history begins. It is a curious and little thought of fact that nearly all this street's story, as regards Old New York, is of its western side. History, in fact, scarcely knows what buildings there were to the east.

No. 1 Broadway, where the Washington Building stands, is a landmark of much note. A tablet upon it commemorates the pulling down of King George's statue in the Green in front. But there is far more about 1 Broadway.

In the dawn of New York history a Dutch widow kept a tavern here, Annetje Kocks, relict of one Pieter Kocks. The property passed into the hands of Frederick Phillipse, into those of Abra-



WASHINGTON HOUSE.

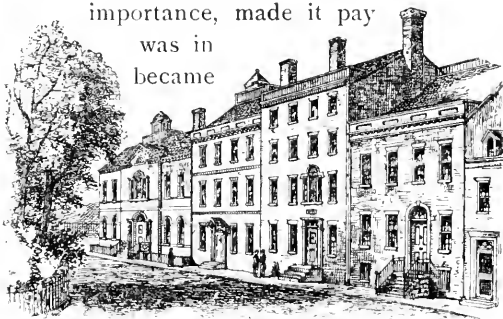
ham DePeyster, and in 1756 into the possession of Captain Archibald Kennedy, afterwards Earl of Cassilis. On this site the Captain built a mansion, splendid for any era, with a great garden at its back. It became a Revolutionary mansion

of much celebrity. Washington, for a time, made his headquarters here, and the house is often spoken of as the Washington House. Many years later, after it had ceased to be a private residence, it was Washington Hall and Washington Inn. Many brilliant balls were given within these walls during the eighteenth century. In 1776 General Putnam was quartered in the Kennedy Mansion, hastily departing after the Continental defeat at the Battle of Long Island. Lord Howe and Sir Guy Carleton were here during the British occupation of New York. Afterwards the house became the home of Nathaniel Prime, the noted banker. Isaac Sears, "King Sears," one of the Liberty Boys, lived in it once, in his later

years. A renowned girls' boarding school, Mrs. Graham's, occupied it for some time long after. It lasted, though but the skeleton of its former grandeur, until 1882, when the present structure was put up.

No. 3 Broadway, once the Watts Mansion, has memories of Andre's staying there. The ground it stood on, now part of the Washington Building, was purchased by Captain Martin Cregier, sailor, trader with the Indians and innkeeper. It was by him sold very speedily to Captain Kennedy who, building on it, sold it in turn to his father-in-law, John Watts, of the Governor's Council. This was in 1792, and house and lot went together for \$5,000.

Nos. 5 and 7, their sites included in the tall Bowling Green Building, were the Robert R. Livingston and the John Stevens houses, erected in 1784 and 1770 (about). In what was probably the original building on the site of 7 Broadway, the Rev. Johannes Megapolensis, old New Amsterdam's most famous preacher, lived from 1655 to 1663, and owned house and lot as well. At 9 and 11, also the Bowling Green Building now, the Martin Cregier mentioned above, burgomaster, established one of the earliest taverns in the city, and, being a public official of importance, made it pay brilliantly. This was in 1659. Cregier's very fashionable. Some years after this host had died a new building was put up, but the site was always continued as a tavern. From 1763 until after the



THE KENNEDY, WATTS, LIVINGSTON  
AND STEVENS HOUSES.

Revolution its presiding genius was a Mrs. Steel, and the house was called the King's Arms Tavern.

This building stood until about 1860, in its last twelve years "the Atlantic Garden," having been miraculously passed over by two great fires, those of 1776 and 1845. It was never, says W. S. Pelletreau, Burns' Coffee House, under any of its proprietorships, as has been often claimed.

In digging the foundations for the Bowling Green Building, several years ago, a large number



ATLANTIC GARDEN.

of the wooden posts of the historic "wall" of Wall Street, nearly 250 years old, were found. This stockade not only extended across the island at Wall Street, but kept on down the North River bank, here a high bluff, to the fort. The posts were in good preservation.

At this point, about 1860, where the Atlantic Garden had stood, there were railroad yards.

D. T. Valentine, in his *Manual of 1865*, in the course of an article on Broadway, remarks: "The first fashionable store was, undoubtedly, on Bowling Green, on the west side of Broadway."

At 19 Broadway, the building of the sleeping lions on the stoop, Daniel Webster once lived. Peter Goelet, one of the last of the far downtown residents, had his home at 32. No. 34 Broadway

was another of the offices of Commodore Vanderbilt's. At 39, next to Aldrich Court, was, at the end of the eighteenth century, the McComb Mansion, a beautiful four story dwelling, sixty feet broad and with grounds running back to the Hudson. After President Washington left the Franklin Mansion on Franklin Square he came to this, renting it for \$2,500.

Aldrich Court is historic and mightily so. A tablet on its walls tells the proud story. It is the authentic site of four houses or huts, the first habitations of white men on Manhattan Island. These were built by Adrian Block, captain and trader, November, 1613. Block also built the first vessel built by Europeans in this country, the *Restless*, launched 1614.

No. 62 is recalled as still another office of Commodore Vanderbilt's, far back in the forties.

Where the towering Empire Building stands at the corner of Rector Street there was, first, a Lutheran Church, built 1671, rebuilt 1741, burned in the fire of 1776. After it came the first Grace Church and its graveyard, completed in 1808, used until 1846, when the edifice at Broadway and Eleventh Street was ready for worship. This day and hour found the site only too eagerly desired. Broadway at Rector Street then was the thick of the wholesale dry goods trade. After the building passed through that period it became a stock and railroad centre.

Along on the block south of old Grace Church, where now a line of dingy, old-fashioned edifices are, there were built, after the destructive fire of 1776, fine private houses that lasted many years. One excellent hotel of that time, Bunker's Mansion House, was in that row, on Broadway's west side. These private houses were replaced around 1850 by the present mercantile structures.

Valentine speaks of the slow rise of Broadway's east side, as regards fashion and trade. It was not until 1790 that it showed much improvement, he says.

Trinity's Church and churchyard stand on what was once a high bluff, as the wall along Trinity Place indicates. The spire and nave that now keep guard at the head of Wall Street are the third Trinity. The first church edifice was built in 1696 and burned in the fire of 1776. The third structure replaced the second in 1839. The wealth of this corporation of Trinity, mother of nearly a dozen great churches of New York, comes, largely, from Royal grants, dating back to the early days of the City under English rule. In 1705, for example, the first Trinity just erected, the church received from Queen Anne the Queen's Farm (the much talked about Anneke Jans property), some sixty-two acres in all, now of immense value, lying in between Watts or Canal Street, Warren Street, the Broad Way and the river, then up to Greenwich Street.

There are several curious and all but forgotten facts regarding Trinity Church and churchyard: Its site is the peach orchard of one Van Dyck (in Stuyvesant's time). Here an Indian girl was shot while stealing peaches, with the result that there was an outbreak of the savages, over 100 settlers being killed, 150 taken prisoners. At the present northwest corner of the churchyard the Van Cortland sugar house once stood. Back of Trinity, on the river front, there was a strong redoubt built in 1776.



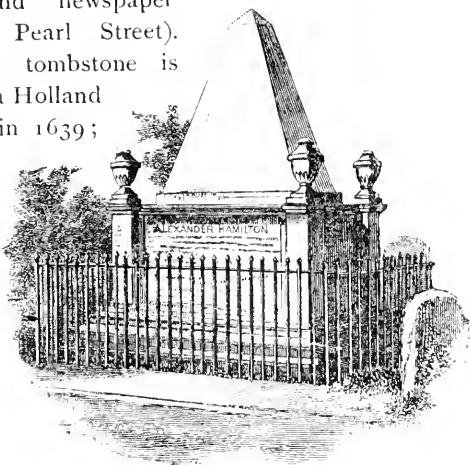
TRINITY CHURCH.

The strip of sidewalk in front of Trinity was, from Revolutionary days, known as the Mall and the Church Walk. It was the fashionable promenade for years, and stories of the beauty show to be seen here were told in the clubs of London. The tale of the dead of Trinity is no less



historic than that of the living. Alexander Hamilton rests in this churchyard, Captain James Lawrence. Albert Gallatin, Colonel Marinus Willett (see Broad Street), William Bradford, the first New York printer and newspaper publisher (see Pearl Street). Trinity's earliest tombstone is above the dust of a Holland maid who died in 1639; its latest stones mark the graves of men who died during the Civil War.

While until some years after that Broadway south of Wall Street kept its standing as an exclusive resi-



GRAVE OF ALEXANDER HAMILTON.

dence section, the abode of the conservative fashion, from 1796 on the section from Wall Street to The Fields (The Common, now City Hall Park), was established for trade. Some of the handsomest shops of town were there. Between what is now Cedar and Liberty Streets was the stage establishment of Carr. John Jacob Astor, the fur merchant, had his store between Liberty and Cortlandt Streets. Here, in 1815, were the dry goods stores of Sheldon and Beach, Abraham Bussing and William Dean. There was Nathaniel Smith, the perfumer, Jacobus Bogart, the baker, and David L. Haight. Cortlandt Street had been laid out in 1733.

But the centre of social life for New York in the latter part of the eighteenth century was the tavern, The City Arms, on the corner of Stone (now Thames Street) and Broadway, precisely where the Boreel Building now stands, at number 115, on the

west side. Until 1754, this great house had been the residence of James DeLancey, once Lieutenant-Governor. DeLancey was the son of the Etienne DeLancey, who, in 1700, had built the house in Broad Street now known as Fraunces' Tavern.

On April 15, 1754, the DeLancey residence on this site was opened as a tavern by Edward Willett, under the name of The Province Arms. In succeeding years it had many titles and many landlords. It was, at different times, the New York Arms, the York Arms, the City Arms, Willetts'. The noted innkeeper, Burns, had it for several years, and then it was Burns' Tavern. The great host, Roubalet, managed it during another period. In some of the old accounts of the day it is spoken of as Burns' Coffee House, and in it, during this landlord's occupancy, on October 31, 1765, the historic Non-Importation Agreement, in opposition to the Stamp Act, was signed.

In the days of the Revolution it was a great military headquarters. At all times fashion congregated here. The Washington Inaugural Ball, in 1789, was



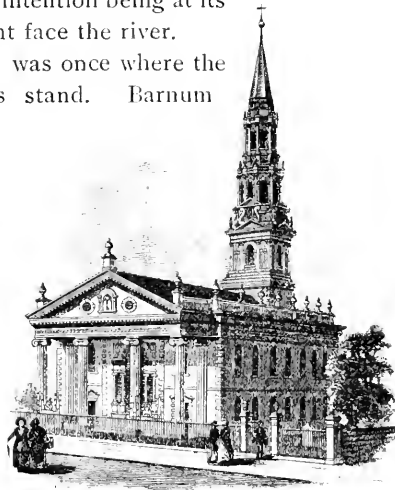
CITY HOTEL, BROADWAY, 1812.

given here. Here, the finest assemblies were held. A garden stretched behind the house down to the river. Thames Street was then the carriage way to the stables. In 1793, the mansion was torn down, and in 1806 the Tontine City Tavern or City Hotel replaced it, to be demolished in its turn, in 1850, to make way for shops.

At 142 was Webb's Congress Hall. In the centre of Broadway, opposite Liberty Street, in 1789, there was the "Uptown

Market," for the wealthy, a building 42 by 25. The corner-stone of St. Paul's Church was laid in 1764, the steeple put on in 1794. Thus, St. Paul's is, by far, an older edifice than the present Trinity. Its rear faces Broadway, the intention being at its building to have the front face the river.

The Chemical Bank was once where the Park Bank now has its stand. Barnum opened his museum on the corner of Broadway and Ann Street in 1842. Before that, there was a dry goods store on this site, the store of Jothan Smith, the A. T. Stewart of his day. The sidewalks of Broadway ended at Vesey Street, in 1789. On the Astor House site there was first a Drovers' Inn and a race



ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL.

course. Then some noble mansions rose, those of John Jacob Astor, David Lydig and John G. Coster. The Astor House was built in 1836, and its rates were the then prodigious sum of a dollar a day. Daniel Webster was one of this hostelry's most noted guests.

Beyond the Astor House block there was in early days a rope walk along the country road that later became Broadway. At the north corner of Park Place, then Robinson Street, the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen erected in 1803 their first building, Mechanics Hall. Phillip Hone lived on Broadway near Park Place. The corner of Murray Street was distinguished by Barden's Tavern.

In 1766 the street ended in Ranelagh Gardens, pleasure grounds of that era. Another garden, the

de la Montague, with its public house, the headquarters of the Liberty Boys, was situated on Broadway, opposite the Park, at about the same time. Around 1840, Peale's Museum was built on this site. Peale's Museum was the successor of Scudder's Museum, that occupied the old Alms House in the Park and was the first of its kind in the city. Conduit Gardens and the Parthenon were opposite The Fields, too, in what was then Upper Broadway.

The greatest changes in Broadway were begun in 1850. There appeared to be a sudden move by retail shopkeepers, and Broadway was given the preference. A. T. Stewart may have had some influence in setting the fashion. The year was especially notable for the number of Broadway private residences demolished.

Broadway was then the fashionable promenade. No street of the present day quite takes the place it held in that respect. On pleasant days it was frequently crowded with persons who made the most pretense in fashion and society. It was the custom to stroll down the street in the last hours of the afternoon to the Battery.

Barnum's museum, said to be the first granite building erected in New York, stood where the St. Paul building now towers. The old museum was five or six stories high, and a gloomy structure, although the numerous colored banners, always arrayed across the front, gave it a bizarre appearance. There was no Post Office; the City Hall Park occupied all the space preëmpted by that department and Mail Street, and it was enclosed by a high iron fence. Looking down Park Place, the buildings and attractive grounds of Columbia College could be seen by the pedestrian on Broadway. On the corner of Chambers Street, Stewart's marble store was one of the sights of the town.

N. P. Willis was one who did much to celebrate Broadway in verse. In a note to one of his "City

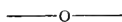
Lyrics," he says that the poet starts from the Bowling Green to take his sweetheart up to Thompson's for an ice, or (if she is inclined for more) ices. The verse runs :

Come out, love—the night is enchanting  
 The moon hangs just over Broadway  
 The stars are all lighted and panting—  
 (Hot weather up there, I dare say )  
 'Tis seldom that "coolness" entices  
 And love is no better for chilling—  
 But come up to Thompson's for ices  
 And cool your warm heart for a shilling.

The crowd going home on foot late in the afternoon was one of the sights in those days. It was the custom with William B. Astor to walk to and fro daily; his brother often accompanied him. William Cullen Bryant walked down Broadway in the morning on his way to the *Evening Post*, of which he was editor, and up in the afternoon on the way home. Horace Greeley often attracted notice. James Fennimore Cooper came down from Cooperstown for his last visit to the city in the spring of 1850, and was then a notable figure on Broadway. Edwin Forrest took his constitutional daily here, when in town. Abram S. Hewitt used to go on foot down to the old stand, No. 17 Burling Slip, in those days. During the pleasant weather of the mild months Broadway always presented an animated appearance from morning until evening.

Perhaps the seven lines of omnibuses made the street seem more crowded and lively than now even. When there were heavy rains, Broadway was not inviting. The mud was thick and deep. At every curb stood the crossing-sweep, who solicited alms—sometimes a specimen of Dickens's Poor Joe, or a young girl in rags, and all sorts of the submerged class. In winter after a snow-storm, the deep ruts in the street made pitfalls for stage-horses. Frequently, however, the snowfall was sufficiently heavy

to make good sleighing for a day or two. Then Broadway was a lively thoroughfare indeed. This was one of the sights that astonished Thackeray. Sleighs large enough to accommodate two dozen or more persons would pick up passengers as the "buses" did until a "straw party" was formed. Then there was great hilarity—and snowballing all through the ride. The snow was not hauled away in carts as nowadays; it was allowed to disappear under the influence of sun and rain. The slush of winter, therefore, was one of the disagreeable experiences to be dreaded.





OLD FEDERAL HALL BEFORE ALTERATION.

## ON WALL STREET.

WALL Street as a highway of New York is the creation of the English. It was no street, but a palisade wall, in the old Dutch times. Not till Governor Dongan saw the chances of real estate speculation and had in mind, in 1688, what a larger and a constantly growing New York might be, did the wooden posts come down and the town begin to spread.

The old wall was twelve feet high, a sloping breastwork on the inside. The stones from its bastions were used for the foundations of the new City Hall at the head of Broad Street upon Wall, in 1699, and at the beginning of the century there was nothing left of the fortification of Stuyvesant. It had been known as De Singel ofte Stadt wall (the Circuit or City wall). That there might be room for the deploying of troops inside a clear 100 feet had been left between the wall and the nearest houses, and in laying out the new Wall Street, the shrewd Dongan took a strip of 40 feet next the wall and sold it for his own profit. Thus Wall Street became a narrow street in place of a wide one.

But even if this noted governor was thus wily in manipulation, he started the development of the town,

and Wall Street especially. The new City Hall, that was to replace the old Stadt Huys on Pearl Street, was pushed with speed. It was a noble building for those days. It occupied the land on the north side of Wall Street, from the east line of the present Assay Office to the west line of Nassau Street, covering the present Sub-Treasury site and what is now the beginning of Nassau Street. The jog at the northwest corner of Wall and Nassau Streets today is a trace of this. This jog marks the old passage that led around the new City Hall from Wall Street into Nassau. This building was sold in 1812 to be torn down, the Sub-Treasury was built on its site in 1836, and Nassau Street was then extended through to Wall Street.

Late in the nineteenth century it became Federal Hall, with many alterations, and the National Capitol, though its honor in this regard was brief. Yet for a time Wall Street and this particular site was literally the seat of government.

The first ninety years of its life, though not, indeed, so full of events as its two latter decades, are none the less of historic interest. Here, until the Revolution, the State Assembly met. Here, in the garret, was the debtors' prison, and below there was a dungeon for all other prisoners. It is not generally known that there was no separate prison in New York until 1759. In the street, close to the Hall, stood the whipping post, cage, pillory and stocks.

In 1731 two fire engines were brought from London, and a room was set apart in the City Hall for them. Four years later, in the court room of this building there proceeded the first trial for the Liberty of the Press. Zenger, the New York editor, was on trial, and Governor Cosby and his council fought hard but unsuccessfully, to have him muzzled.

The first library of New York, 1642 volumes, was housed in the City Hall in 1730. This was largely of a religious nature, and, much added to,



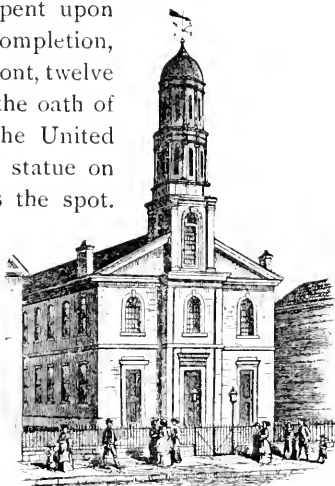
was given the name of the "Corporation Library." One of the private libraries of the city really antedates this, the New York Society Library, for it is said to have been founded in 1700. The Society Library amounted to little, however, until 1754, when it, too, was deposited in the City Hall. During the Revolution the British soldiers carried away a large part of it, a knapsackful at a time, selling the books for liquor.

From out of the Hall, on April 23, 1775, the Liberty Boys dragged 600 muskets, which they distributed. George III.'s portrait was torn down and trampled upon.

As City Hall this building had stood upon arches, its ground floor thus of open corridors. When it came to making it the Capitol it was enlarged and embellished, its walls carried down to the ground. \$65,000 was spent upon the remodeling, and upon its completion, on the famous balcony of its front, twelve feet deep, Washington took the oath of office as first President of the United States—April 30, 1789. The statue on the Sub-Treasury steps marks the spot.

By the middle of the century Wall Street had become very nearly the court end of the town. Later it was quite that. Before 1790 it was a beautiful avenue crowded with trees. Members of the First Congress walked up and down it, foreign ambassadors, the judiciary, the President and his Cabinet. Alex-

ander Hamilton's house (1769) was on the site of the Mechanics National Bank, 33 Wall Street. Where the Manhattan Trust Company is, at the corner of Wall and Nassau, was, a century ago,



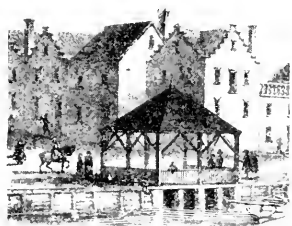
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WALL STREET.

Simmons' fashionable tavern, where a public dinner was once given to Washington.

Beyond the City Hall, towards the East River, and on the same side of the way, the north, were two notable buildings, the sugar house of the Bayard family and the first of the Presbyterian churches of New York. In 1729 the sugar house was erected between the Hall and the church. In 1773 it was turned into a tobacco manufactory. The church, built in 1718, was on a lot of 88 foot frontage and 124 feet in depth, and the two together must have taken up the entire block down to William Street.

Washington, when he came on to New York to

be inaugurated, landed at the foot of Wall Street, Murray's Wharf. A ferry to Brooklyn had been established at this point as early as 1629. Then the river came up close to the present joining of Wall and Pearl Streets, and here was the "Water Gate" of the Wall. A trifle to the south was a battery reaching out into the river, about where Front Street and



FOOT OF WALL STREET AND  
FERRY-HOUSE, 1746.

Jones Lane now come together.

Old New York's mercantile life almost begins and ends with the coffee houses, cheery places of refreshment and daily meeting, the forerunners of the dining clubs of to-day. Wall Street down by the river was the locality of the most representative of these establishments, and the slip that in 1744 occupied the centre of the street, from Pearl to Water, and the bridge over it on which "vendues" or auctions were held, were known as Coffee House Slip and Coffee House Bridge.

The earliest of the coffee houses here was the Merchants' Coffee House, built in 1744, where now is the corner of Wall and Water Streets, the south-

east corner. This establishment was kept by Madame Ferrari, and was a favorite resort of captains. Later, when a new building was erected on the opposite cross-corner, she removed there.

A Mein Host of the Merchants' afterwards was Cornelius Bradford. He established, in 1784, the first Marine List ever publicly kept in New York, and a register where "gentlemen and merchants were requested to enter their names and residences," New York's first directory.

Congress was entertained here by the Chamber of Commerce and the Marine Society, and the old coffee house lasted until the beginning of the century, when it was destroyed in the great fire of 1804.

On the corner, diagonally opposite to this, the north-west corner, the Tontine Coffee House was started, on March 3, 1791. Many gentlemen were present at the meeting, John Broome, President of the Chamber of Commerce, acting as chairman, and the Tontine Society was formed with 203 members. The building was formally opened on June 5, 1793, with a dinner. Its cost was \$43,000. At once the Merchants' became known as the Old Coffee House. The Tontine became a political as well as a business centre. Each member had a \$200 share. The property was to revert to the seven survivors of the original subscribers, and it is said that \$135,000 was realized when it was sold.

Here, also, was the old market, founded in 1709, close to the river's edge, moved a little higher up into Wall Street in 1720 and made the public market place. It was called the "Meal Market," and cut meat was not sold here until 1740. In 1731 it became the only sale-and-hire slave market in New York.



FOOT OF WALL STREET AND  
FERRY-HOUSE, 1629.

Under a tree, in front of the present Central Trust Company Building, at 60 Wall Street, on November 13, 1792, 24 brokers signed an agreement and founded the New York Stock Exchange. At first they met in each other's rooms, but later established the first tangible stock market in an upper room of the Merchants' Exchange, at Wall and William Streets. This Merchants' Exchange (on whose site is the Custom House, 1901), an important part of early New York, was erected by the Merchants' Exchange Company, organized in 1824. The Company purchased 112 feet on the south side of Wall Street, four lots, and built this structure, three stories high, with cupola and weather vane, the finest in the city. The fire of 1835 destroyed it, and in 1836 the present building was commenced, the additional lots from the old Exchange to William Street being bought. It was finished in 1842. On this corner of Wall and William had stood a half century to a century before Wall Street's great ornament, the statue of Pitt, erected in 1770, pulled down by the British soldiery in 1776, because he had secured the repeal of the Stamp Act.

The present 56 Wall Street, the white stone building bearing the sign: "Jacob R. Telfair," is the site of the house of the renowned Captain Kidd, wealthy man and real estate speculator, in partnership with Governor Dongan, as well as pirate, it has of recent years been learned. Not alone was this residence Captain Kidd's home, but it was also the first residence built on the north side of Wall Street.

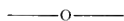
W. S. Pelletreau, one of New York's best authorities on old title deeds, says: "In the year 1688 there were almost as many houses on the south side of Wall Street as now; on the north side, not one. \* \* \* On May 19, 1688, Governor Dongan sold to George Brown, maltster, a lot, being on ye n. e. side of ye city, on ye n. e. side of ye street called ye Wall Street." This lot was 25 feet

wide, 112 feet long on the west side, 111 on the east side. This was the first house lot sold on the north side of Wall Street, and on it George Brown built the first dwelling house. On May 13, 1689, he sold it to William Cox, merchant, for £60. Cox was soon after drowned, and his widow married Captain William Kidd. The present building was erected in 1828.

A few doors below is what is certainly the oldest lawyers' sign in New York, on an old building, at 68 Wall, "Benedict, Burr and Benedict." It dates back very nearly to the beginning of the century.

One of the Wall Street banks has a site genuinely historic, for it has occupied it for over a hundred years. That is the first of all the banks of New York, the Bank of New York, that in 1798 removed to its present site, on the north-east corner of Wall and William Streets. It began to do business in the old Walton House on Pearl Street, near Franklin Square, but staid there only a year or two.

While the Bank of North America had been organized in Philadelphia three years before, nothing could be done in New York because of the British occupation. A meeting was held at the Merchants' Coffee House on February 26, 1784, and the bank was set on its feet. The capital stock was half a million dollars in gold and silver. Alexander Hamilton was one of its chief projectors.



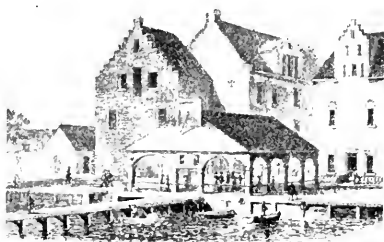


IN BROAD STREET.

## BROAD STREET AND THE CANAL.

FOR memories of the old Dutch days of New Amsterdam, for landmarks and sites of the earliest mercantile doings of the city, there is no better street than the "Gracht," the Broad Street of to-day. Before there was this highway there was practically no New Amsterdam. But it was many a long year before it was a street in the ordinary sense. A natural inlet ran along its present course from the strand where Pearl Street now crosses it, very nearly up to the present corner of Wall and Broad. The Dutch merchants turned this into a canal, boarding up its banks, and put docks at its river end. By 1696, the WET Docks at the outlet of this canal were notable features of New York's commerce. The inlet proper only came up to Beaver Street; it was more of a ditch beyond. In 1660 the ways on either side were paved, and these banks were lined with houses.

Along Broad Street, Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer says, the first church in New Amsterdam was built. About here was in the very earliest days a marsh, Blommaert's Valley, New York's first "Swamp," and here gathered the first tanners and bootmakers. The lots on both sides of the canal were originally granted, by Stuyvesant, to Domine Samuel Drissius, officiating clergyman of the Dutch Church, and the titles trace back to his heirs. These lands



THE EXCHANGE, FOOT OF BROAD STREET.

adjoined the farm of Jan Jansen Damen north of the present line of Wall Street and between Broadway and William.

On the bridge that crossed the ditch at the Exchange Place of to-day the first exchange of the little city was informally established in March, 1670. the merchants meeting there every Friday morning between the hours of eleven and twelve. "Governor Lovelace bade the Mayor see to it that during that hour boys should not coast down the hill from Broadway and make havoc with mercantile legs and feelings." (See Stone Street.) This point was the head of navigation on the ditch, and on the north-east corner what is said to have been the original Brooklyn ferry house stood. On the northwest corner was a market (established 1711), and east and west, under the lee of the above mentioned hill, the land was known in the earliest times as the "Sheep Pasture."



THE ROYAL EXCHANGE, BROAD STREET.

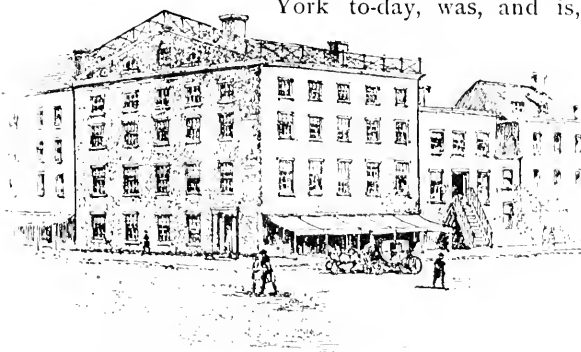
The intersection of Broad and Pearl Streets (the canal was filled in late in the seventeenth century) marks the site of the city's first genuine exchange, the Royal Exchange, much spoken of in old records. It probably stood precisely in the centre of the roadway, then (1752) close to the East River's edge. Built on the site of an old market house in this year, it speedily became the great meeting place of merchants. It was a building on arches that seem (later on) to have been enclosed. Above the arches was a hall 60 by 30 and 14 feet high, arching to 20 feet high, and the structure was surmounted by a cupola.

In 1752 the lower story was used as a coffee house and the room above as a ball room. The first plays that New York ever saw are said to have been produced here. Then the Chamber of Com-



merce hired this upper room from 1770 to 1795, and during the Revolution the building was used as a market by the British. In 1795 the Tammany Society took the upper room for a museum. In 1799 the old building was torn down.

Almost cheek by jowl with it, yet standing, probably the most distinguished landmark in New York to-day, was, and is,



FRAUNCES' TAVERN, BROAD AND PEARL STREETS.

Fraunces' Tavern, originally Etienne De Lancey's town house, built 1700, and taken in 1762 by Samuel Fraunces, afterwards Washington's steward. Here the Chamber of Commerce organized (in 1770) and held their early meetings. Once in its career Fraunces' Tavern was known as the Queen's Head; but its memory of Washington is the leading chapter in its history, and the tale is told in a tablet on its walls. "Fraunces' Tavern — To this building General George Washington came Evacuation Day, November 25, 1783, and on Thursday, December 4th following, took leave of the principal officers of the army yet in service. Erected by the Sons of the Revolution."

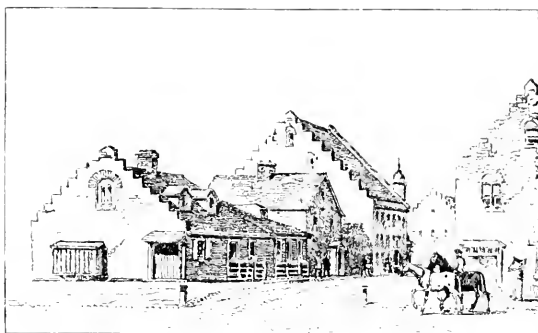
"Washington's Long Room" here still continues to be shown to visitors. The Tavern is on the north-east corner of Broad and Pearl Streets.

Opposite the Royal Exchange, its precise site not yet identified, stood the King's Arms Tavern

(1733-1763), kept by Mrs. Steel and by the omnipresent Burns. On the north-west corner of Broad and Beaver Streets, the Morris Building site, has been placed a tablet in honor of Colonel Marinus Willett, subsequently of the Continental Line, afterwards Mayor of New York, who, on January 23, 1775, at the head of a body of "Sons of Liberty," compelled a detachment of regulars to surrender a quantity of arms siezed by them at the Battery. Willett then armed his own troops with these weapons.

In 1869 the Stock Exchange moved to its present site. There are traditions of two exchanges, in this vicinity, after the second of which Exchange Place got its name. The first, spoken of as the New Exchange, is said to have been located somewhere near the corner of Broad Street and Exchange Place. The second is said to have stood (built in 1825) upon the block bounded by Wall, Broad and Exchange Place, fronting on Wall, extending through to Exchange. This may, however, have been confused with the Merchants' Exchange on Wall Street, built about the same time, which certainly stood on the Wall Street block below (see Wall Street).

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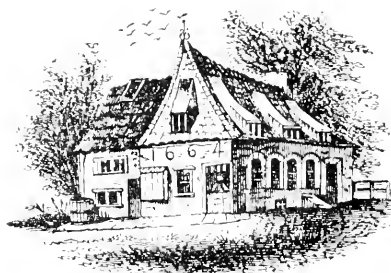
BROAD STREET AND EXCHANGE PLACE, ABOUT 1680.

## EXCHANGE PLACE—VERLET- TENBERG.

WHERE Exchange Place now climbs to Broadway, there was, at the beginnings of things in New York, the highest hill in the vicinity, and on it a fort of logs and earth, Verlettenberg. The English called the hill Flatten Barrack, said by some to have referred to the tan yards reported to have been on the site of what is now Exchange Court. The road that was the first of this street was called "T'Schaape Waytre," the "lane to the Sheep Pasture." In 1691 this name had become Tuyen Straat, and later it was Garden Street.

Gardens then skirted it on either side. Much of its history has already been told in the notes on Broad Street. But there are two other interesting points about it. Until the year 1832 it was even narrower than it is now. From the earliest days it was the street of one of the most important buildings in New York.

This was the first Dutch church to be built outside the Fort, the South Reformed Church, known as the "Old Dutch Church," built in 1693, destroyed in the fire of 1835. It stood on the site now covered by the rear part of the Mills Building and probably considerably further to the eastward as well.



A DUTCH HOUSE.

PEARL STREET AND THE OLD  
DUTCH TOWN.

NO New York street has had a more varied existence than Pearl, none, a greater measure of history, none, more names. It was the first Fifth Avenue, though then but a short block in length, the first residence street. The first New Yorkers that lived anywhere, except in scattered huts, or in the Fort, built their homes substantially on the then Perel Straat, from the present State to Whitehall Street, on the beach, literally, facing the river and the bay. Here was Aunt Metje Wessel's tavern, and, as Pearl Street grew, keeping by the river side, it had many important buildings put on it, chief of them all, the old Stadt Huys, the pioneer City Hall.

By 1728 it had stretched out until it reached the Bowery Road, the present Park Row, as a map of the period shows. The latter end of this was, however, little more than a country road. Its course to-day is its old course. It curves now as it curved then, having been first a beach and then a path that wound around the foot of a hill. It was Perel Straat and Pearle Straat for but a block at first, then Dock Street to what is now Hanover Square, at that point The Slip (Old Slip to-day), beyond that Great Queen Street. Hanover Square was laid out in 1728. The city's old Custom House was on Dock Street. Even as late as 1790 Pearl Street was so narrow that sidewalks were forbidden.

By 1728 some of the water front had been reclaimed, docks built, and Pearl Street had commenced to step inland, as it were. But how close it was to the water originally may be guessed from the fact that wooden sheathing (The Schoeyinge) was put up on the beach between 1654 and

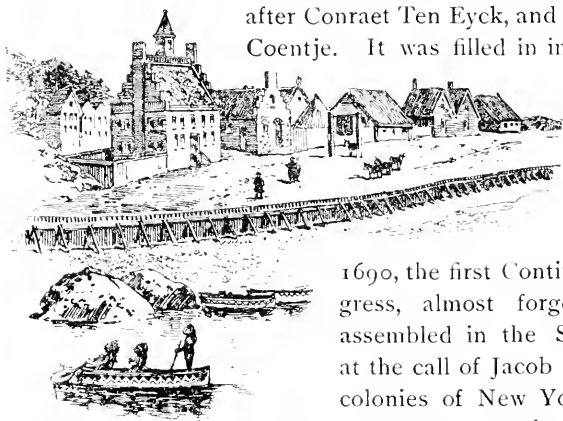
1656 to protect the Stadt Huys and other buildings from the "inroads of the waves."

The Stadt Huys, whose site is marked now by a plain commercial building, on Pearl Street at the head of Coenties Slip, on the southern corner of Coenties Lane, where the Third Avenue Elevated sharply turns (there is a tablet above the second story), was altogether a notable



THE STADT HUYS.

Dutch structure. Built originally as a tavern or harberg, the only house of public entertainment of the day, it was made into a City Hall in 1653, and continued in that capacity till 1699, when the new Hall was built on Wall Street. Then the old building was sold at public outcry for 920 shillings. It was four stories high and boasted a cupola. There were gardens at its back, in front a cage, a whipping post and a public well. On the beach close at hand was a battery of 15 guns. Coenties Slip, a little inlet in the Stadt Huys' day, was named after Conraet Ten Eyck, and nick-named Coentje. It was filled in in 1835. At



COENTIES SLIP IN THE DUTCH TIMES.

Coenties Slip, 1728, was the Fish Market.

In May, 1690, the first Continental Congress, almost forgotten now, assembled in the Stadt Huys at the call of Jacob Leisler, the colonies of New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Plymouth and Maryland being represented, to consult as to measures of mutual protection. This Congress voted to raise an army of

850 men to invade Canada, to repel the French.

At 81 Pearl Street is the site of the first printing press in New York, established by William Bradford of Philadelphia, and where the Cotton Exchange stands Bradford founded the first New York newspaper, the New York Gazette (Nov. 8, 1725). A marble tablet at 88 Pearl Street commemorates the fire of 1835, when in this vicinity 402 buildings were destroyed.

**H**ANOVER SQUARE, named in honor of George I. of the house of Hanover, less than almost any other part of Old New York, could have substantial memories of the past in the way of buildings, for the city's greatest fire, that of 1835, wiped it out absolutely. There was much else that went up in flames then, but Hanover Square was the centre of the conflagration, the fire having started but a block away. In 1765 it had become a centre of shops, and at the time of the fire the Square and Pearl Street were the great dry goods mart, the Twenty-third Street of the hour, the haunt of fashionable purchasers and of crowds of ladies.

It is said, in a "History of the Commerce of the City and the Port of New York," speaking of the great demand for business places after the fire, when new warehouses and shops had been put up, "The enormous rents demanded for dry goods stores in Pearl Street caused the merchants to leave that thoroughfare and go into other streets."

About 1840, the auction trade centred on Pearl Street in the vicinity of Wall.

At what is now the foot of Cedar Street in Pearl Street stood once the DePeyster House, of Washington memories.



AN OLD-TIME DWELLING HOUSE.

FRANKLIN SQUARE was at first named Cow Foot Hill. Afterwards it was St. George Square. Here, at the corner of Cherry Street, was the Franklin House, the home of Washington in 1789, when he was inaugurated President, built in 1762-1770 by Walter Franklin, merchant—one of the finest of New York dwellings. But in architectural glory, it was far surpassed by a building near by, the Walton House (its site 324 Pearl Street). This beautiful mansion finally became a tenement. It was in its glory when Pearl Street here was known as Great Queen Street and “was an aristocratic quarter, when its gardens reached down to the East River.”

“Its richness of furniture, its gold plate and its magnificent entertainments were quoted in Parliament as an excuse for taxing the American colonies. Howe, Clinton and Andre had passed through these doorways, and a future king of England had danced a minuet here with the fairest of New York’s rebel daughters.”

Here, as has been said, in this famous house, the Bank of New York had its first quarters, in 1784.

BEAVER STREET was a brook and the “Beavers’ Path” at first. It was probably the first fur mart. Its second block, from Broad to William, was called Princes Street. Here, the street ended, up to the fire of 1835. Its present line beyond this largely follows Exchange Street, destroyed in the fire, practically the old Slaughter House Lane and Sloat Lane (1728). A very interesting relic of the past consists of twelve mill stones set in the pavement of the area in rear of numbers 38 and 40. There were fourteen of these old stones, but two were taken up in 1894 and donated to the Synagogue Shearith Israel, and are now contained in their Tabernacle in uptown New York.



The building at 8 South William Street stands on the site of an old mill, which in 1729 was also used as a Synagogue by Portuguese Jews. These stones were brought from Holland long before that time and undoubtedly are the first mill stones used in America.

**SOUTH STREET** is comparatively modern, though its buildings between Whitehall and Broad until recently were the finest specimens of purely Dutch architecture remaining. They were not known to have historic interest, however. **MOORE STREET** was once called Weigh House Street; **BRIDGE STREET** was so named because of a bridge across the canal, and **NEW STREET** because it was the first street opened by the British.

At the present corner of **WHITEHALL**, and State Streets, two centuries and a half ago, on the edge of the river, Peter Stuyvesant built a handsome house for himself that he called "The Whitehall."



OLD BRIDGE AND DOCK, WHITEHALL SLIP.

Whitehall Street, also known as Shop Street, was once the open land on the land side of the fort. Burns, in 1763, kept a tavern, The King's Head, on Whitehall Street. The southern portion of the land the Produce Exchange is built on, at the corner of Stone Street, is the site of the original house of Frederick Phillipse, the richest man in New Amsterdam. The property remained in his family to Revolutionary times, and was then confiscated. The northern portion of the Produce Exchange land was covered by the houses

of Anthony Allard and Captain John Lasher, among others. The grants date back to 1646. Captain Lasher's houses stood on the corner of Beaver and Whitehall.



FIRE OF 1835.

**HANOVER STREET** includes Merchants' Street, at No. 25 of which the fire of 1835 started. This point was about 35 feet south-east of the Custom House, corner Exchange Place and Hanover Street.

**MARKETFIELD STREET** was Marketfield Steige or Marketfield Lane. The western portion of the street has been covered by the Produce Exchange. The eastern part still exists, one of the few Dutch streets of New York that have never been widened. It was so named because it led from the Marckvelt, and was also called Petticoat Lane. The first Huguenot Church was built here in 1628.

**STONE STREET**—At first Hoogh Straat, then Brouwer Straat, from Whitehall to Broad, Duke Straat, from Broad to William. Mrs. Earle says there was a bridge across the canal here, and that on this bridge the merchants met in 1670, making this the earliest exchange (see Broad Street). Brouwer Straat had residences that were fine for that time upon it. Stone Street got its name from being the first street to be paved in New York (1657), owing to the insistence of one of its residents, the wife of Herr Van Cortlandt, the brewer. Next door but one to the brewery, on this street, between Whitehall and Broad, in 1642, Adam Roelantsen established the first school.

## WILLIAM STREET.

THE Glassmakers' Street was, perhaps, William Street's earliest name, and a large part of it again, later on, Smee's Street, then Smythe's, then Smith Street. By the latter name that portion south of Wall was familiarly known for many years. What is now South William Street was, back in the old city, Mill Street, Horse and Cart Lane and Dirty Lane. It was not until some years later that Mill Street, or South William, was cut through to join William. It originally turned off at a right angle into Duke (Stone) Street, this bit of roadway yet remaining. In Mill Street the Portuguese Jews built their first synagogue in 1729. Its site is back of 38 Beaver Street. A tanner's bark mill was near by.

Some authorities have it that William Street, and not South William, was called Horse and Cart Street, and that this should be street and not lane. In a loft at 120 Horse and Cart Street or Lane, at all events, the present old John Street Methodist Church, the pioneer and still standing, was organized, according to Hemstreet, in 1697.

Into the building of the old Corn Exchange, Beaver and William Streets, the Stock Exchange came in 1853. Delmonico came to his present site in 1835. In 1832 he had moved to 23 William Street, and had been burned out there (see below). At the entrance to the new Delmonico Building, east front, two pillars stand. These are of unusual interest as there is good authority for believing them to have been taken from the ruins of a Roman villa at Pompeii. On William Street, opposite old Sloate Lane, that is, almost next to the Corn Exchange Building, stood practically the last of the genuinely old Dutch buildings not swept away by

the fire of 1835, at once the store and home of the old-time merchants. It bore on its front, in spreading letters, the date, "1690."

Between 1857-60 the Stock Exchange was in old Lord's Court, William and Exchange Place. On one of the Exchange Place corners (then Garden Street) three-quarters of a century ago, in an unpretentious brick building, was the Post Office. Close by here (in 1735) was the Black Horse Tavern, the centre of Dutch social life. William Street here, under its name of Smith Street, in 1789, was a street of dry goods and milliners' shops.

On William Street, between John and Fulton, Washington Irving was born. On the east side of the street, a few doors south of Fulton, Delmonico started his career, opening a bake shop there in 1823. The north-west corner of Fulton and John Streets (a bronze tablet is on the building) was the scene on January 18, 1770, of the first blood shed in the Revolution, five years before it actually began, a struggle between the British regulars of the 16th Foot and the Sons of Liberty. This is known in history as the fight of Golden Hill. Golden Hill itself lies in the centre of the two blocks bounded by Maiden Lane, William, Fulton and Pearl Streets.

On the east side of William Street, between Fulton and John, there are two very old houses of the early English order. Quite possibly these may now be the oldest houses in New York. They are built of bricks imported probably before bricks were made hereabouts. They adjoin and are numbered 122 and 126 William Street.

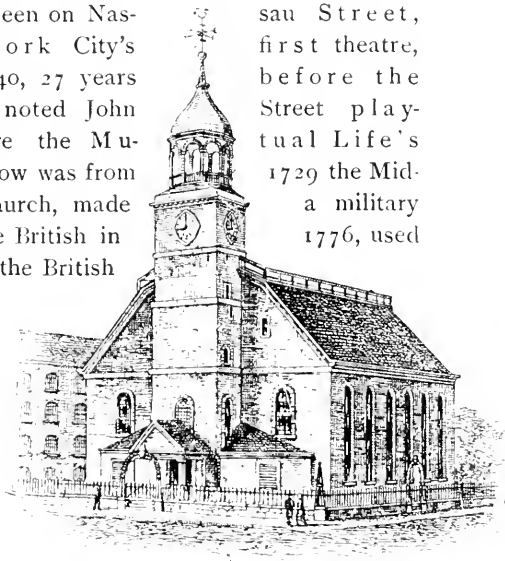
## NASSAU STREET AND THE ENGLISH TOWN.

KIP'S LANE, after Isaac Kip, was the forerunner of Nassau Street. Later it became the Pye Woman's Street, and in 1696 Tunis de Kay presented a petition for a "carte way" along it, which, when complete, was christened after the Prince of Orange and Nassau.

Its most notable resident, probably, was Aaron Burr, who, in 1789, is said to have lived on this street, just back of Federal Hall. In a room, whose exact location is not determined, but that is known to have belonged to the estate of Rip Van Dam and to have been on Nassau Street, was New York City's first theatre, opened in 1740, 27 years before the time of the noted John Street playhouse. Where the Mutual Life's Building is now was from 1729 the Middle Dutch Church, made a military prison by the British in 1776, used afterwards by the British officers as a riding academy, re-

stored in 1790, the New York Post Office from 1845 to 1875, and taken down in

1882. Opposite it was the Middle Dutch School, and opposite it, too, in 1795, the New York Society Library moved.



THE MIDDLE DUTCH CHURCH.

On the north-east corner of Nassau and Fulton was built before the Revolution the Shakespeare Tavern, a structure of yellow bricks and dormer windows, with a niche on the Nassau Street side containing a large bust of Shakespeare. Thomas Hodgkinson, an actor, bought this tavern in 1808, and made it a resort of the day. Here, on August 25, 1824, the Seventh Regiment was organized.

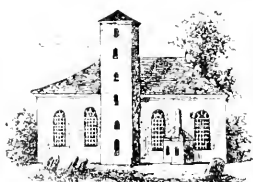


SHAKESPEARE TAVERN.

The southwest corner of Beekman and Nassau, now Temple Court, was in 1830 Clinton Hall, the first home of the Mercantile Library, which had then been in existence five years.

PINE STREET took its name from the trees on Jan Jansen Damen's farm just north of the "wall." One Tienhoven had inherited some of these acres, and when the street was laid out in 1693 it was called Tienhoven Street. Captain Kidd and Governor Dongan had a profitable real estate deal on here, the land concerned being that now covered by the Lancashire Insurance Building at 25 Pine Street.

Before it became Pine, however, this street was known as Queene (1695) and King (1728). Near Broadway, it had a famous tavern, Walter Heyer's, and here the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen was founded (see Broadway).



THE FRENCH CHURCH  
IN PINE STREET.

Facing the rear of the present Sub-Treasury was a French Church, built here in 1704. The French Huguenots, as already told, had established their first sanctuary on Mar-

ketfield Street. In 1697, they bought a burial ground, "far out of town" (Pine, Cedar and Nassau Streets), and built their second church upon this site seven years later.

The trees named CEDAR STREET, too, though it was once Little Queen Street Jefferson, at one time, had his home there.

On LIBERTY STREET

(Crown Street in pre Revolutionary days) there was the old Livingston sugar house. Long before that, in Dutch times, on the rise of ground somewhere between William and Nassau Streets, called Catinut Hill, there were



SUGAR HOUSE IN LIBERTY STREET.

the pleasuring grounds of Barberrie's Garden. At Liberty Street, in 1822 (the yellow fever year), a high board fence is said to have been stretched across the island as a quarantine measure.

MAIDEN LANE was the Maagde Paatje, the "Maiden's Path," "marked by a gentle stream," where the Dutch damsels came to wash their clothes and spread it out on the meadows. Maiden Lane was, too, the southern boundary of New York's second "Swamp," extending to Fulton and Pearl Streets (in 1677), and within 160 feet of the Heere Street (Broadway). At the foot of Maiden Lane was a salt meadow. A blacksmith settled himself on the edge of this salt meadow, and the locality became known as the "Smith's V'lei," or the Smith's Valley. V'lei was corrupted to Fly, and the market established at the foot of the street, in later days (it was pulled down in 1823) was known as the Fly Market.

For a time Maiden Lane seems to have been called Oswego Street. John Austin Stevens places

the Oswego Market on Maiden Lane, between Broadway and Nassau Street, from 1771 to 1810.

JOHN STREET'S historical fame rests, in great part, upon its Methodist Church and its Theatre. The church is still standing, the last of the Protestant churches to linger downtown, a steepleless structure, of chapel-like design, at 44 John Street, almost

opposite the little lane called Dutch Street, that runs through from Fulton, between Nassau and William. This congregation has been about 200 years in existence (see William Street). The church edifice itself, the cradle of Methodism in America, was erected in 1768, rebuilt in 1817, rebuilt again in 1841. It was long



METHODIST CHURCH,  
JOHN STREET.

known as the First Methodist Church. Within these walls Whitefield used to "preach like a lion."

The John Street Theatre, one of the most noted in the annals of the American stage, opened December 7, 1767, was located at the present numbers, 17, 19, 21. It was of wood, a building red in color, 60 feet back from the street, and was reached by a covered way at 17. There is even now, unless recently destroyed, an arcade somewhat corresponding to the old covered way at this number. The opening piece was Farquhar's "Stratagem," performed by "The American Company." The theatre was closed in 1774, and did not resume its career as a playhouse until after the Revolution, though during the British occupation amateurs performed in it, giving it the name of the Theatre Royal. The house's last night was January 12, 1798, and the building was almost immediately torn down.

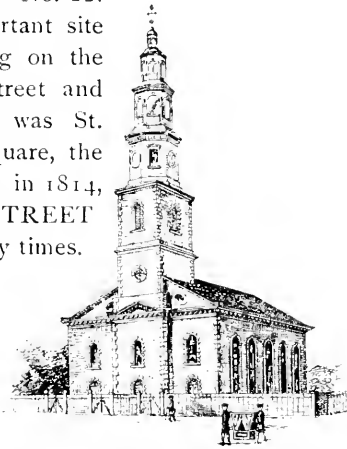


John Street was at first an alley along the Van der Clyff tract to the river. Pelletreau says that it was called Van Cliff Street in early times. It was finally named after John Harpending. (For details Golden Hill see William Street.)

Fair Street, east of Broadway, Partition Street west, were the early names of FULTON STREET. Up to very nearly a quarter of a century ago the North Reformed Church stood on the north-west corner of this street and William. The place of the Noon-Day Prayer Meeting almost commemorates its site. Actually the old church's site came only to the east wall of the present commercial building the Prayer Meeting is lodged in. At the south-west corner of Water Street there was built in 1823 the present United States Hotel, famous in its day for the entertaining of foreign merchants and sea captains.

A historic memory of ANN STREET is that in 1786 the Society of Peruke Makers and Hair Dressers had their meetings at No. 22. BEEKMAN STREET'S all important site is that of the St. George building on the north side just west of Cliff Street and next to the shot tower. Here was St. George's, now on Stuyvesant Square, the old church built in 1811, burned in 1814, rebuilt two years later. GOLD STREET went under several names in early times.

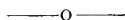
A map of 1728 shows that from Crown Street to Golden Hill it was Rutgers's Hill, from Golden Hill to Fair Street, Vandercliff Street, from Fair Street into the Swamp, Gold Street. THE SWAMP was known as Best-aver's Swamp in 1640, as Beekman's Swamp in 1728, as Cripple Bush in 1773. PECK SLIP boasted of a primitive ferry to Brooklyn very early in the settlement of New York. The



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

ferryman was a near-by farmer, and the horn, that summoned him when anyone wanted to cross, hung on a tree.

**S**PRUCE STREET was, in 1785, George Street. FRANKFORT STREET was named after Jacob Leisler's native town, JACOB STREET after Leisler himself. Where CLIFF STREET is now, Dirck Van der Clyff had an orchard. The street was opened November 13, 1686. The first Baptist Church of New York was located on the west side of this street, 90 feet north of John.



## CITY HALL PARK AND THE WEST SIDE.

CITY HALL PARK was the Common, The Fields, De Vlache, The Flat, the common pasture. Its upper portion was once a potter's field, tradition emphatically states. But one vestige of the very old tangibly remains to sight, however, the historic Debtors' Prison.

This is at the Brooklyn Bridge entrance, the present Hall of Records. Until the middle of the eighteenth century criminals and debtors were confined in the old City Hall on Wall Street. In 1756 an Act of Assembly made possible the erection of a jail, and a trio of gloomy structures soon strung along across the open.

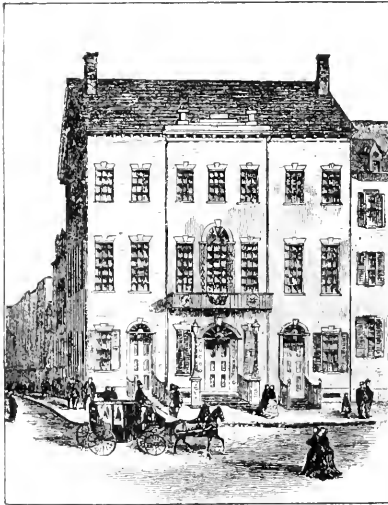
The centre of these was the poorhouse (on the present City Hall site), built in 1735; towards Broadway was the Bridewell, built 1775; to the east this Debtors' gaol (three stories with a cupola atop). The latter was also spoken of as the New Jail, and during the Revolution it was used as a military prison, under the brutal Marshal Cunningham, and called the Provost. In 1830 it was cut down a story and encased in new outer walls.

The City Hall of to-day was built between 1803-1812, and then the Park was fenced in, an iron fence taking the place of the wooden one in 1822, with gates and four high stone columns, where the Post Office is now. On the site of the Court House was once the New York Institute. A Liberty Pole stood on this common just before Revolutionary times, and there, where it was called the Parade Ground, the Declaration of Independence was read to the troops of Washington, July 9, 1776.

From the fountain (it was on the Post Office site) Croton water first sprang with a great celebra-

tion on October 15, 1842, a column 60 feet high. The statue of Nathan Hale on Broadway here does not seem to mark a locality. Hale was probably hanged in the orchard of the Rutgers' Homestead on the block bounded by Clinton, Rutgers, Madison and Cherry Streets, not on the Commons.

PARK ROW has a bit of history all to itself. The celebrated Park Theatre was here, 200 feet north of Ann Street. It was built in 1798, opened on January 29, of that year. In 1826, in the Park Theatre, the Garcia Troupe gave New York its first taste of Italian opera. Mlle. Garcia, afterwards known as Malibran, appeared, the piece being "The Barber of Seville."



TAMMANY HALL, 1811.

THEATRE ALLEY at the back of this site gets its name logically. On the point of land where the Times Building stands was, from 1768 to 1854, the Brick Presbyterian Church, on a lot known as the "Vineyard."

Martling's Tavern was on the Tribune Building's site. Here, Tammany Hall was organized, 1789. Where the Sun office is to-day Jacob Leisler,

the head of the "Committee of Safety," is said to have been executed in 1691. Much of the land to the east of here was his. Tammany Hall was built here in 1811. French's Hotel stood on the World Building's ground.

Anneke Jans' Farm, which had its southern boundary at about Warren Street, its northern at Canal or Watts, and ran from the Heere Weg to the river line, was sold to Governor Lovelace in 1670. Thereupon it became the "Duke's Farm." When Queen Anne stepped upon the throne this property, which had been confiscated and was then known as the "Queen's Farm," was, with the "Company's Farm" (the old grant to the West India Company adjoining it on the south), given over to Trinity Corporation, all to be thenceforth styled the "Church Farm."

WARREN and GREENWICH STREETS. In this vicinity were located, early in the century, the Bowling Green Gardens, later and for many years the renowned Vauxhall Gardens. MURRAY STREET was named after John Murray, one of the original trustees of the New York Free School Society, 1806. PARK PLACE (then Robinson Street), from 1754 to 1816 ran only one block, Columbia (King's) College grounds embracing the blocks between Barclay, Murray, West Broadway and Church Street during these years. BARCLAY STREET was given its name from the Rev. Henry Barclay, second rector of Trinity. On the corner of Church Street stands the oldest Catholic church in New York, St. Peter's, a classic pile.

VESEY STREET gets its title from the Rev. William Vesey of Trinity. On the north-west corner of Vesey and Greenwich is an old stone building that was once a lighthouse. Washington Market here was originally Bear Market. When it was built in 1833 the water came up to its doors. It was also known as Country Market, Fish Market and Exterior market.

TRINITY PLACE and CHURCH STREET (from Rector to Liberty) were once Lumber Street. Their present names, as did that of Rector, came from Trinity parish. From 49 Cortlandt Street, Hall's Tavern, in 1787, the Boston stages started, every Monday and Thursday. From Cortlandt Street, too, was the ferry, at this time, to Powle's Hook (Jersey City), where the stages left for Philadelphia each evening.

THAMES STREET, originally a carriage lane, a narrow way, has as its landmark Old Tom's Chop House, soon to go. TIN POT ALLEY (Exchange Alley) was Tuyn Paat (Garden Lane). It led to the Governor's Gardens, in the Dutch days.

MORRIS STREET was Beaver Lane till 1829. On this street, near Broadway, was located the first graveyard of New York.

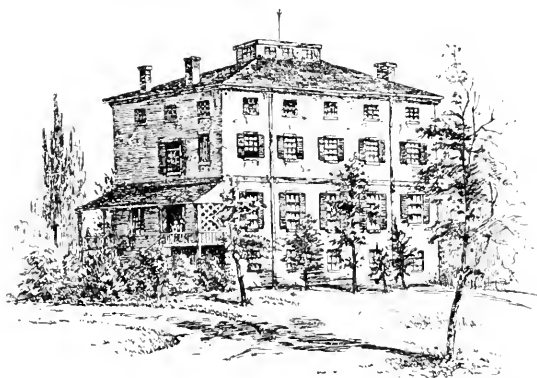


A BUILDING OF THE 17TH CENTURY.

## GOVERNOR'S ISLAND.

THIS island, whose Indian name was Pagganck or Nut Island, lengthened by the Dutch into Nutton Island, was once famous for its crops of chestnuts.

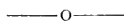
"Felix Oldboy" says: "The renowned Wouter Van Twiller, the Doubter, whose only certainty in life was that public office was a private trust, and who was the official ancestor of a long line of land grabbers, was the original purchaser of Pagganck from Cacapetegno and Pewihas, the aboriginal owners, and while he bought this realm of the blue-bird and bobolink in his capacity of director-general of the New Netherlands, he proceeded to use it as private property, as he did also Great Barn and Little Barn Islands—the latter now known as Ward's and Randall's Islands—and stocked and cultivated them for the benefit of his own purse. Their 'high mightinesses, the lords of the honor-



able West India Company,' did not relish these proceedings, and subsequently ordered Governor Stuyvesant to take steps to secure 'Nut Island and Hell Gate' as public property, and this was done.

One of the English successors of Walter, the Doubter, was a man after his own heart; for, when the Colonial Assembly placed £1,000 at the disposal of Lord Cornbury to fortify the island, that luxurious gentleman proceeded to expend the money in erecting for himself a handsome country residence there, and it was not until the war of the Revolution broke out that fortifications were erected there alternately by the patriot and British forces. After peace was declared, and Governor Clinton, as executive of the sovereign and independent State of New York, came into possession of the island, he leased it for the purposes of a race course and hotel, and all New York went pleasuring there. But when, in the last term of President Washington, war threatened the young republic, the island was thoroughly fortified by volunteers from the city, under the inspiring watchwords of 'Free trade and sailors' rights.' "

In 1698 it was set apart by the Assembly as part of the Fort, and therefore called "The Governor's Island." Buttermilk Channel was once a shallow ford at low tide.











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